

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



AUGUST 2025

Volume 39, Issue 10



From Your Pastor

"I don't feel like praying, worshiping, or reading the Bible. What should I do?" This describes one battle with which I imagine each and every Christian is familiar. It really reflects a dominant theme in our culture: "If it feels good, do it." The opposite, of course, is "If it doesn't feel good, don't do it." Upon reflection, however, we recognize this is idolatry—fearing, loving, and trusting our feelings above all things. It is a dangerous lie that leads only to trouble and heartache.

Imagine how little good would actually occur if everyone merely followed their feelings. I think it safe to say that the vast majority of adults would never go to work, the great majority of students would never go to school, and most people would never sacrifice anything in love for another. Here's an example: consider how much parents—contrary to their feelings—do for their children. I doubt if the average parent really *feels* like waking from peaceful slumber at 2 a.m. to feed the screaming little tyke! So, why do they? It is simply a matter of the will. Love gives, even when it doesn't feel like it.

"But what if I don't really *want* to?" This is where we see just how deeply our natural, sinful, self really digs in and sets itself against our God and what He wants for us! We begin to see that our sinful nature ways really don't work. We see we don't have problems as much as we ARE the problem. Bottom line: I must admit that my sinful nature *doesn't want* to worship, pray, or read. My sinful nature *doesn't want* any part of God! It wants its own way!

Well then, what can we do? It should be painfully obvious by now that we can't do anything. But that is a very good place to be. To be empty, depleted, and powerless makes it clear to us that if something is going to happen, it is going to be by God's might. With God all things are possible! Paul tells us in Philippians 2:13, "It is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose." The Psalm writer put it this way: "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you

the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). More than once many believers have prayed: "Lord give me the want to. Give me the desires to do such and such." God is faithful. He will reshape our desires, our wants, even to the point that doing what He wants for us *feels good!*

The feelings of not wanting what God wants for us can also lead us to some other uncomfortable feelings. Maybe you don't feel much like a Christian. Then remember that our faith is dependent upon some very real life facts, not feelings. Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). The Holy Spirit dwells within us (1 Cor. 6:19). We have been baptized (Rom. 6:3). We are in Christ (Rom. 8:1). We are dearly loved children of God (1 John 3:1). We are complete in Him (Col 2:10). But these truths are so easy to forget. It is so easy to focus on our feelings, or even our faith, rather than on Jesus. We also need to beware of putting our faith in our faith, which will only lead either to pride or to despair. Again, look to Jesus and not to yourself. Through Jesus, you and I are worthy and can approach the throne of God with confidence.

And there are others who need you! Others need to see that God can be honored, Jesus can be exalted, and people can still love, even in the midst of horrible, agonizing pain. Others in the church need you and your gifts and encouragement! With all others we, too, need to experience our Savior's presence in Word and Sacrament.

All our *I don't want* to feelings come from Satan himself. We are under attack, but the battle belongs to the Lord! Call upon the Lord Jesus and He will deliver you. He will feed you through the very Word and Sacrament. Ask Him to fight for you! Seek His nourishment and His transforming work in His Word. Seek His presence in prayer. Seek His fellowship with His people. Bathe your wounds in His forgiveness. And do this all the more as your feelings tell you otherwise.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahuken



August 1.....	Brenda Brinkley TJ Bubke Jennifer Hennings Kerry Meseck Kandi Teut
August 2.....	Dorothy Pingel Mara Streck Morgan Wood
August 3.....	Trisha Abbe Bennett Lickteig
August 4.....	MacKenzie Jorgensen Whitney Weiss
August 6.....	Alex Harm
August 8.....	Deidra Brown Larynn Friedrichsen
August 9.....	Jay Fink Carmen Schmidt Jeramie Streck
August 10.....	Justin Johannsen Mariya Streck
August 11.....	JoAnn Clausen Jerry Ernst Joshua Mitchell Calvin Segebart
August 12.....	Tamara Chubb
August 13.....	Mackenzie Teut Carol Walde
August 14.....	Joyce Detlefsen
August 15.....	Jeremy Rohlf Jr. (1)
August 16.....	Jeffery Hummel Roger Prussing
August 17.....	Lori Kragel
August 18.....	Derick Bruhn Andy Hennings Delores Sonksen (91)
August 19.....	Charlotte Ogren
August 21.....	Allan Gierstorf
August 22.....	Coleen Fredericks Aubryana Hoffmeier
August 23.....	Cameron Brown Hailey Brown Cory Martinson Steve Slater Cindy Stoppel Logan Stoppel Weston Stoppel
August 24.....	Austin Otto Joann Riessen
August 25.....	Mckinzie Hargens
August 26.....	Francisco Cruz Christine Wunschel
August 28.....	Donna Harm Jeff Kragel Judy Schultz
August 29.....	Amanda Ashbrook Maria Valdez
August 30.....	Dustin Ogren J'Lynn Schmidt Jace Schmidt Denice Schultz
August 31.....	Trevor Kline Troy Kline Matthew Wunschel

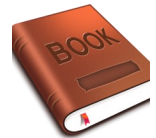


Harry & Kay Riessen.....	August 1, 1987
Lydell & Lauri Schoenfeld.....	August 2, 2008
Dakin & Mary Lynn Schultz	August 5, 2000
Phillip & Makayla Millar.....	August 10, 2024
Matt & Dana Kolln.....	August 11, 2018
Lowell & Judy Lee.....	August 11, 1973
Neal & Doris Nahnsen.....	August 12, 1989
Mike & Melanie Hargens.....	August 14, 2004
Ryan & Kara Ferguson	August 14, 2024
Kevin & Jill Andresen.....	August 15, 1987
Troy & Kris Kluender.....	August 15, 1987
Derek & Beth Rothe	August 15, 2020
Rick & Jodi Lorenzen	August 18, 1990
Derick & Amanda Bruhn	August 23, 2003
Craig & K'Lynn Harm	August 24, 1991
Rodney & Shelley Segebart	August 25, 1990
Josh & Ashley Hanke	August 31, 2019

Please notify the office of any
omissions or corrections.

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From the Church Record Book



Baptized: *"Let the little children come unto Me...."*

Levi David Rothe, son of Derek and Elizabeth Rothe was baptized on June 28, 2025.

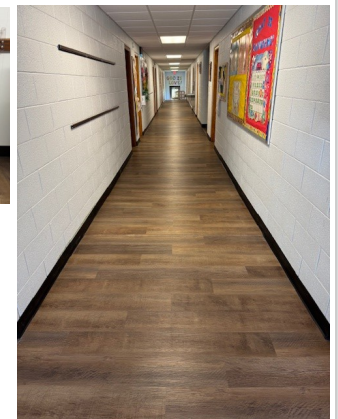
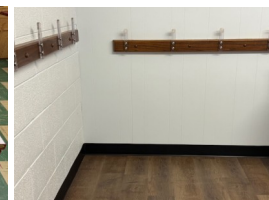
Deaths: *"I am the Resurrection..."*

Bonard H. Christiansen, age 96, died May 27, 2025, and was buried June 3, 2025 in the Crawford Heights Memory Gardens, Denison, Iowa.

New Flooring & Paint

If you haven't already, come look at the new flooring in the education wing and also the bathroom in the lower Narthex. The Sunday School rooms were also given a fresh coat of paint, no more banana walls!

Thank you to those that made these improvements possible.





Immanuel Lutheran Preschool
is looking for an assistant teacher for the
2025-2026 school year.

The position is 3.5 days per week.
Responsibilities include: assisting lead teacher,
engaging with children, and general cleaning.
Pay is \$15.25 per hour.

Interested candidates please contact
Amy Hoffmeier at 712-269-1171.



August 20

Parent/Confirmant Orientation
Meeting @ 6:00 pm in the
Fellowship Hall

August 25

First Day of Public School

August 26

Preschool Open House @ 6 pm

August 27

First Day of Preschool

September 7

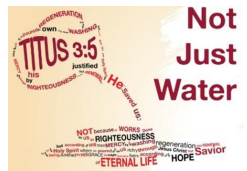
Sunday School Rally Day



Iowa District West Youth Gatherings
Registration information will be coming out soon!

Junior Youth Gathering

October 18-19, 2025



The Sheraton-West Des Moines
Topic: Baptism
Theme: Not Just Water
Bible Verse: Titus 3:5

Senior Youth Gathering

November 21-23, 2025

**God's Calling
Your Life**

Hilton Inn at the Airport-Des Moines
Theme: God's Calling For Your Life
Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10



Volunteer opportunity at the Iowa State Fair!

Spend a 3-hour shift at the
Lutheran Hour Booth
and get free fair admittance for the day.
Dates available: August 8,10,12,14,16,17
and shifts begin at 9:00 am.

Contact John Tews at 641-740-0126 or
valleyinsjt@gmail.com.



UNITY RIDGE

4-PERSON BEST BALL

2025

SCHLESWIG GOLF COURSE
904 VALLEY VIEW DR, SCHLESWIG, IA 51461

AUGUST 9

REGISTRATION SHOTGUN START	9:00AM 10:00AM
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PER TEAM BEFORE AUGUST 1 | AFTER AUGUST 1

\$200.00	\$240.00
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Register in the School Office
or scan the QR Code

~ THE LWML INVITES
ALL LADIES ~



Immanuel LWML held a meeting on June 5th. We did not have a July meeting due to the “4th of July” holiday.

The National MWL Convention was held in Omaha June 26-29. Members attending were Deb Green, Loretta Reimer, Coleen Bruhn, Peggy Wunschel. Chris Mahnken and Sue Schultz as well as Pastor Mahnken and Pastor Schulz.

The Fall Retreat at Mission Central will be Saturday, September 20, 2025.

A \$6,000 donation was made toward the new flooring in the education building which has been completed. These funds are from the Calf Show Dinner that Immanuel served during the 125th Schleswig Anniversary celebration. Many Immanuel members helped make that possible.

Cathy and Cheryl made visits in June to Immanuel members in care facilities, and Joyce and Coleen visited in July.

Submitted by Donna Harm, Secretary



Dear Immanuel Lutheran,
Mission Board and Pastor Mahnken,

Thank you for your donation of \$1,000 to Mercy Meals of Siouxland on June 23, 2025. Your donation allows us to package 5,882 Mercy Meals for hungry children!

What a joy to come back from the LWML convention and find your generous donation in the mail at Faith. Yesterday, the Orphan Grain Train truck came to Faith and we loaded 9 pallets of meals (64,152 meals) onto the truck. But first we unloaded materials received, so that volunteers will be able to package meals in the upcoming months. The meals packaged will be delivered worldwide to children by Christian volunteers so they hear about Jesus, as well as receiving nutritious food.

We are thankful for Immanuel Lutheran’s ongoing support of Mercy Meals of Siouxland to feed hungry children. God’s Blessing to the members of Immanuel.

In His Service with you,
Margee S. Joines, Director
Mercy Meals of Siouxland

From Your library . . .
“Have we got a book for you!”



The Accidental Guardian
by Mary Connealy

If you enjoy history from the 1860’s, this book is for you. This is the first book in the High Sierra Sweethearts series, called *The Accidental Guardian* by Mary Connealy.

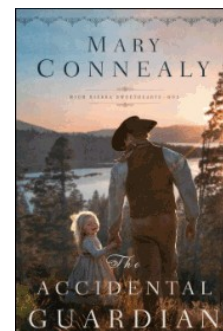
Deborah Harkness saved her younger sister Gwen and two toddlers during the wagon train attack. Trace Riley came upon the smouldering ruins of the wagon train. He realizes this is the same groups who left him as a sole survivor many years ago. He has been living off the wilderness since that time making a home for himself and starting a herd of cattle. He appointed himself guardian of the trail and hoped this kind of thing would never happen again.

Trace has the only shelter for miles around and agrees to take them in until they can safely start out again in the spring. Winter is just around the corner. His bachelor existence isn’t something that will work very well for women and children.

Trace, his two cowhands and Deborah work together to keep the trail safe and survive the winter and the many problems they face. The two women take over the cooking and the guys do the hunting and keeping the fire going. God was always there, watching over them from the time they were attacked. God’s plan isn’t always the simple answer to their situation.

Check this out and then read book 2, *The Reluctant Warrior* and book 3, *The Unexpected Champions*.

—Submitted by Carol Neddermeyer



**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2025**

41 Voting Members in Attendance**I. Opening Devotion and Prayer**

Led by Pastor Mahnken

II. Reading/Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The agenda for today and the minutes from April were both approved.

III. Reports of Officers and Boards**A. Elders (Curtis Korner)**

Community Outreach did a grill out for the Youth Rec Program & it was well attended. Delinquent members are still being reached out to.

B. Trustees (Dave Friedrichsen)

Juan Ornelas (Innovation Construction) installed new flooring, did some painting, as well as other miscellaneous improvements in the Education Unit. The bill was in the vicinity of \$30,000. Trustees are asking for a breakdown of services and corresponding charges.

Andrew Tuckpointing from Clarinda came and gave an assessment and made some repair recommendations. The cost of these was \$12,537. The radon ventilation system at the parsonage is not functioning. There is a bid of \$2,091 to replace the fan and reroute the venting. The trustees are pursuing a most cost effective solution.

The soot issue is still being investigated. The Eternal candle is now electric vs. oil. Stanley Steamer gave a duct cleaning quote of \$16,000+. No action was taken on this.

C. Treasurer/Stewardship/Finance (Leroy Hight)

Immanuel is currently blessed to be ahead \$15,147.81 for the year.

D. Education/Youth (Deb Green)

Angie Ellis' term will be up and a replacement will be needed. Confirmation Orientation will be held on August 20th. The 5th and 6th Grade confirmation classes will be split due to large class sizes.

E. Preschool (Angie Ellis)

The A.M. preschool sessions are full while the P.M. session has 1 opening at present.

F. Mission/Fellowship (Chris Mahnken)

Chris thanked those who supported fundraising efforts that allowed the Mission Board to fund various missionaries and worthwhile projects (Orphan Grain Train, LCMS Disaster Relief, Bible translators, etc.)

G. Memorial (No report)**H. Pastor's Report (Pastor Mahnken)**

Pastor shared statistical data about Immanuel. Leroy Hight accompanied Pastor Mahnken to the IDW convention.

Over \$20,000 was raised to support endeavors at Camp Okoboji.

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER! PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH!

IV. Old Business**A. New Constitution for Immanuel**

Still a work in progress.

B. Other

It was moved by Peggy Wunschel, seconded by Dave Friedrichsen, and approved unanimously to purchase Val Teut a \$100 gift card to Phil's Lawn & Landscaping to show our appreciation for her years of service to Immanuel.

V. New Business**A. New Computers for Church Office**

Windows 10 will no longer be supported and the current computers cannot be updated to the new software.

The Council recommends using Choice Dollars and Office Supply Account funds to purchase 3 new office computers.

BT Computers has been very good to Immanuel and we would like to keep doing business with them. The cost will be approximately \$3,000. Lowell Lee made a motion to make this purchase. Deb Green provided the second, and the vote was unanimous.

B. Church Roof Repair

Curtis Korner made a motion to have Andrew Tuckpointing make all necessary repairs, even if they find something new that they did not catch during their initial inspection. Rachel Mentink provided the second and the vote was unanimous.

C. Friends of the Lutheran Hour

A motion was made by Dennis Gierstorf to donate \$1,100 to Lutheran Hour Ministries from Home Missions. Deb Green provided a second, and the vote was unanimous. The funds are needed now rather than later so a door offering may be done to replenish the HMF if deemed necessary.

D. Other

1. Church History: Nancy Bielenberg talked about former congregations near Schleswig and the importance of keeping their histories available. Specifically, Grant Township, St. Paul's, and St. Luke's congregations.
2. Maria Valdez asked permission to have a school supply drive and was granted permission to do so. She also talked about foster care and an initiative called Foster Care Sundays. She will talk about this with Pastor Mahnken to see if it is something Immanuel will participate in.
3. The radon issue at the parsonage is a timely one. If it can not be fixed by the Immanuel trustees, it doesn't make sense to wait until October, our next Voters' Meeting, to address it again. Peggy Wunschel moved, Loren Jepsen provided a second and the vote was unanimous to authorize the trustees to pay to have it repaired.
4. An interesting discussion was held about working at the Lutheran Hour Ministries booth at the Iowa State Fair. No action was taken on this matter.

VI. Adjourn With Prayer

Pastor Mahnken led us in a closing prayer!

~Submitted by Craig Bogatzke, Secretary

"Everyone should be eager to advance the teaching and study of the Word for his own salvation and the glory of God."
Martin Luther

Pastor Mahnken's Report Voters' Meeting—July 13, 2025

We began 2025 with 615 baptized members and 515 communicant members on the books. In 2025 three of our members have died—Lainey Naberhaus, Bernie Petersen, and Bonard Christiansen. Six members were added by Holy Baptism; the Naberhaus twins were baptized by a hospital chaplain. One member transferred in. We have transferred one communicant member to another LCMS congregation. One member was released by personal request. As of today we have 617 baptized members and 513 communicant members on our roll.

Our average attendance to date is 144.4; a year ago it was 148.7. Our average is probably a few less, as the numbers were from June 22, and since then we have had 103, 114, and today 141 in worship.

Our Iowa District West Convention was held June 8-10 at Camp Okoboji. We thank Leroy Hight for serving as our voting, lay delegate, joining me at the convention. The theme of the convention was *One Generation Commends Your Mighty Acts to Another*, based on Psalm 145:4-7. It was an appropriate theme as our District President, the Reverend Steve Turner, has now retired. Our new District President is the Reverend Paul Egger, formerly pastor of St. John in Galva. The Office of District President in Iowa District West is a full-time position. The Office of 1st Vice President (VP) and 2nd (VP) are part-time positions, and so, the pastors elected to these two positions continue to serve in a congregation. Pastor Jonathan Riggert of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cherokee has been elected to be our 1st V.P., and Pastor Benjamin Dose of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake has been elected to be our 2nd V.P.

Synodical President the Reverend Doctor Matthew Harrison was the preacher for our opening service, and he addressed convention twice on Monday. The Convention Offering was designated for Camp Okoboji, and the offering received at the Convention totaled over \$20,000!

The Convention itself was a very peaceful convention. A fun feature was a Monday evening celebration of the faithful services of retiring President Turner and also Sue Light, who served as an Administrative Assistant at the Iowa District West Office for 46 years, as well as Jim Schroeder who retired from serving as the LCMS Foundation

Planned Giving Counselor for Iowa District West and the Nebraska District. Jim served in that position for 37 years. We thank God for their faithful service!

Chris and I attended the Lutheran Women's Missionary League National Convention in Omaha June 26-29. Several other women of Immanuel attended. It was an excellent convention and very well run. I am thankful we had the opportunity to attend so close to home. You can view videos of the Convention online: lwml.org/live. I particularly encourage you to watch the Opening Service and the Bible Study which was part of the Friday 8 a.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. sessions. The Mites in Action speakers all have a good witness to share as well.

Sunday, June 29 Pastor Jeffrey Wade was installed as the Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Denison. I was honored with the task of preaching for the service. For some reason, people often ask where he came from. He had been serving in Michigan. He has been a pastor for 11 years. Pastor Wade and his wife Christine have three children living with them and two living with Jesus in heaven. Pastor Wade and his wife both grew up in Ohio.

Finally, I ask that you please continue to pray the Lord would bless us with the working of His Holy Spirit through His Word—all of us, no matter what our age. Pray for your spouse, pray for your children and grandchildren, pray for one another as fellow members of Immanuel, and pray for those you know who do not have saving faith. Pray as St. Paul prays in our Epistle for today: "We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:9-12). This is another wonderful example of how we can take a prayer found in the Bible and easily adapt it for use in our own prayers.

Chris and I thank you for your prayers on our behalf. We continue to pray for us all.



Last week was the day, you know the one. The day when Amanda reminds you the newsletter articles are due. My big sigh and "you've got to be kidding" was graciously met with the response that July 4 is over and it's time to begin thinking about school. Amanda, Amanda, Amanda. We aren't saying the "s" word until the end of July!

The truth of the matter is, she's right. There have been a few house-keeping items to take care of this month before the big surge hits in August. Scholarship forms were sent out, the beginning of the year letter full of helpful information was also sent, and the ever looked forward to School Supply List. My kids absolutely loved shopping for their back to school supplies. They loved getting new folders and pens when they were little and expanded to planners when they got older.

I pray you've had a relaxing summer. Our June went by in an absolute blur and July has slowed only a smidge. We have entered into the grandparent stage of life (and loving every moment). We spent a great deal of June with our oldest daughter and two youngest grandbabies. Let me just tell you, this grandma thing is a great gig! The two year old has mastered "gamma and gandpa" so we're pretty much at her beck and call when she pulls out the verbiage. The baby is absolutely charming with blue eyes and a dimple that will someday be used to his advantage. The lessons learned for preschool through these little tykes has been amazing.

The most profound and applicable thing I learned from the two year old. They repeat everything they hear! Of course, she's not speaking in complete sentences yet so it was usually a one word repeat, but she doesn't miss a thing. Nothing melts your heart like hearing your grandchild say "Jesus." As I reflected on her skill level (because I'm an early childhood educator so it just comes naturally), I was again reminded that what we teach at preschool is so incredibly valuable. The children are sponges. They are absorbing every tidbit shared at school. We have this incredible opportunity to share the love of a Savior with them each and every day. I feel like it comes across twofold. One, children can tell when they are loved. They'll learn if they know they're loved. Second, they get to hear how much Jesus loves them and have the Word poured into them. God's Word does not return void. It's up to the Holy Spirit when He wants to pull it out and apply it to their lives. I am so grateful for those opportunities and pray each child becomes rooted and grounded in Jesus' love this year.

As always, your prayers are welcomed and appreciated. They are the plow that prepares the spiritual ground for the children. I'd ask specifically for the children and their families. Pray that we can minister to both in whatever capacity God chooses. Prayers for patience as we begin a new year (it's always an adjustment because your head knows they are new students but your brain is somehow deceived into thinking they'll be as advanced as the children who just left for kindergarten.) I have no idea how, but I seem to always forget the three year olds have no idea what a line actually is or what it means to stay "behind" the person in front of you.

Serving Him with you,
Mrs Gustafson

AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES—NEWS

Dear Mission friends,

—Ethiopia Updates—

Incarcerated and Called!: Abreham is a 28-year-old inmate at Shashemene prison who God is using to bring hope to fellow inmates. Abreham claims he was wrongfully convicted of murder eight years ago and sentenced to 18 years in prison. He believes that the false accusations against him are the result of a personal vendetta. However, he passionately preaches Jesus' love and spurs on the faith of his fellow inmates by playing various instruments, singing and training choir members. Abreham loves to share the Gospel, helping many find freedom while incarcerated. Abreham believes God has called him to share his hope in Christ in such a time as this. He is thankful to ARM for providing Bible training and essential resources, leading many inmates to know Jesus. Through God's grace and your gifts, Abreham is making a profound difference in the lives of those around him.



Rev. Mengistu & Abreham



Confirmants in prison receive Bibles

Isolated, not Forgotten: Rev. Melikamu was blessed to visit the distant congregation of Arki Dil in June. After months of waiting due to the shortage of pastors, the church joyfully celebrated Holy Communion. Praise God for the 61 believers who were baptized and 8 people confirmed in their faith!

—Liberia Updates—

Bomi Mission (by Rev. Effiong, ARM Missionary in Bomi): In Gbojay, a heavily Muslim town often considered closed to Christian presence, we were graciously received and allowed to proclaim the Gospel freely, thanks to the influence of converted Muslim allies and community guides. One powerful testimony stands out: Mr. Momodu Sheriff, a Muslim man suffering from a stroke, was moved by the message of repentance to confess his sins and receive the Word of Absolution. The Spirit clearly worked in this encounter, bringing comfort to his soul and joy to the team. A crusade and church plant in Gbojay is under prayerful consideration.

We are saved!: My name is Martina Stem, and I am thankful that Jesus saved my sister and I through the preaching on the radio programs. My sister Patricia and I are learning more about the Bible and Jesus Christ. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Bardue, who has always been there to answer our questions. When we first heard the preaching on the radio, we reached out to him, and he came to guide us and invited us to be part of the church. As a member of the Lutheran church, I actively participate in classes and look forward to my baptism! I am also grateful to everyone supporting this radio program.



Martina & Rev. Bardue

In closing, John and Kathy continue to live in gratitude for life and God's grace. They are thankful for everyone who is praying for Kathy's healing. Praise God, and please keep up the prayers!

Your partners in the harvest,

Missionary Linda Kurtz and
John & Kathy Duitsman

¡AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!

News from *Las Iglesias Evangélicas Luteranas*
Amigos en Cristo in Denison and Gracia in Storm Lake
Pastor Pedro Lopez

Greetings from your Hispanic ministries of Iowa District West. Like always, we want to thank God, the churches and all our volunteers for making this ministry a great one. Without all of you, this would not be possible.

At St. Paul-Carroll, we continue to have Bible study on Saturday evenings for Praise, Prayer and Bible study. We continue to work with new families that we met during the spring ESL class. Our deacons Fili, Noel and Adrian attended the district convention and enjoyed meeting all the pastors and learning more about our church. We had a great time together and amazing fellowship.

At Denison, we continue to have our Worship service every Sunday at 2:30 pm. We offer home Bible studies as needed. Bringing new people into the ministry is our priority here. We thank God for helping us and we ask that you pray for our Denison group.

In Storm Lake, we continue at Grace where we have our Sunday worship service at 11 am. We also volunteer at St. John's for the swaddling clothes program. Friendships are developing. Our prayer is that this will help in the planning of an ESL class again soon and that these families will visit our Sunday Worship service. We continue to offer Bible study on Wednesdays either at Grace or home depending on schedules.

Our new Bible study at Faith-Early is happening. We have a few visitors on and off, but we are hoping to reach out to the Hispanics living there. As of now, Bible studies are held on Mondays at 1 pm. We are not sure that we will keep it at this time since contact people have different work schedules. They work at Tyson and run a restaurant 6 days a week. Please keep this new ministry in your prayers.

At Hartley, we continue to offer Bible studies led by Deacon Noel on Saturdays at 6:30 pm. We are planning a new Bible study at Camp Okobojo with the Hispanics working there and Hispanic families living in the area. Please pray for us, that the Lord enlightens us as we continue to share the Word of God.

Bendiciones a todos.

Pastor Lopez



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS at Immanuel was held July 13-17 with the theme "Epic Australian Adventure."
THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way whether in gifts of your time, talents, money, donations of snacks or crafts, and especially your prayers, we appreciate and thank you!

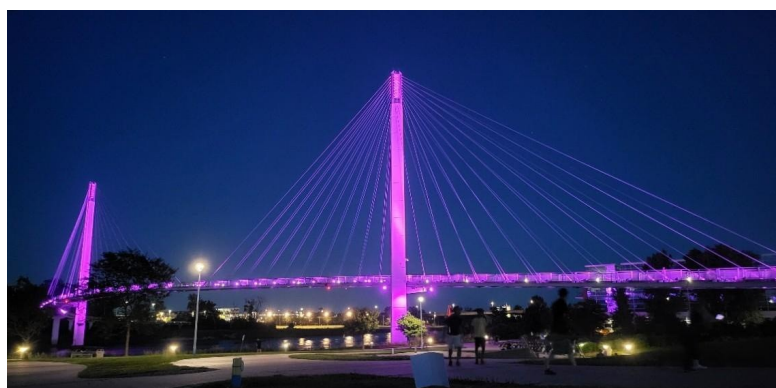
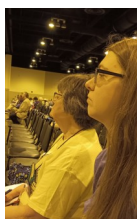
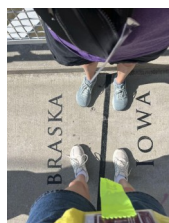
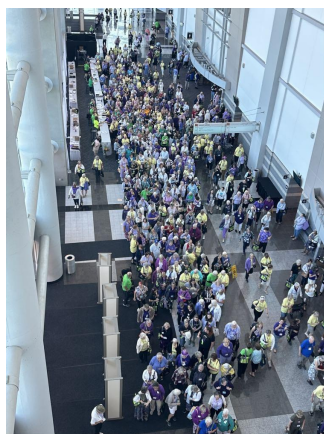




LWML National Convention

Six members of Immanuel Lutheran's LWML, plus Pastor Mahnken and Pastor Schulz, attended the 41st Biennial Convention held at CHI Health Center, Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025. The Theme of the convention, *"Growing in God's Grace"*, was based on the scripture verse 2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

The yellow shirts worn on the Mission Walk were meant to represent the color of corn against the blue sky. The Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge was lit up with a vibrant purple color during the convention.





Greetings from Camp Okoboji!



What a joy it is to serve God and his people at Camp Okoboji! Of course, this is a busy time at Camp, and it is truly a blessing to hear the laughter and joyful voices in song. Some of you may not know that my office is in the Christian Life Center and where much of the music and Bible Studies happen during the camps. While it may make it difficult to focus at times, I love to hear how each camper is hearing the Gospel and learning about the love of their Savior.

As a camp, we are also particularly saddened by the happenings in Central Texas over the 4th of July weekend. Our prayers are with Camp Mystic and all the families that have lost a child or loved one.

I want to thank the many generous contributors, individuals and congregations that donated toward the District Convention offering for Camp Okoboji. More than \$20,000 was raised and it is GREATLY appreciated. I give thanks to God for the ongoing investment of so many in our important mission and ministry. Thank you!

The Auxiliary Annual Quilt Auction was a great success this year! The auction, lunch, and crafts raised nearly \$12,800 for our Dining Hall Kitchen upgrades. A huge thanks to all of the quilters, volunteers, bidders, and buyers!

Thanks to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in service Camp Okoboji. We are continually impressed by the operation of our monthly Omelet Brunches! Thank you to everyone who helps and volunteers to make them so successful. In July we served more than 370 people!

NEEDS/WANTS LIST: Gas grills, Laundry soap, bleach, hand soap, queen size mattress pads, new commercial grade vacuums, and Thrivent Action Team cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects 712-337-3325).

Welcome!



Camp Okoboji is pleased to announce the arrival of our new Discipleship Director, Jai Millen. Jai is no stranger to Camp, having attended as a youth, counselor and served on the Youth Week staff over the years. Jai graduated from Iowa State University and later attended Concordia University, Nebraska where he received his certification as a Director of Christian Education (DCE).

In Christ, Adam Hengeveld, Executive Director Camp Okoboji

Iowa District West Convention 2025

As mentioned in Pastor's Voters' Meeting report, a celebration of retirement was held at the IDW Convention for the following three individuals:

- * Rev. Steve Turner—District President
- * Sue Light—Administrative Assistant at IDW
- * Jim Schroeder—LCMS Foundation Planned Giving Counselor for IDW and NE district



Installation of Rev. Jeffrey Wade

On Sunday, June 29, 2025, Rev. Jeffrey Wade was installed as the new Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Denison, Iowa. Pastor Wade had been serving in Michigan and has recently moved to Denison with his wife and three children.



Assessments after Texas floods Are Underway Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Disaster Response

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christ commands us to love and serve our neighbor. By His love, we love others. By His mercy, we show mercy to others.

So when our neighbors suffer some disaster, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) responds with the love and mercy of Christ—the love and mercy He first showered upon us.

On July 4, flash floods in central Texas left over 130 people dead. An additional 100 people remain missing. The flooding also caused significant damage to homes, businesses and local infrastructure. Together, let us pray for peace for those who mourn, comfort for those with loved ones still missing, and strength for all involved in search-and-rescue efforts.

Assessments by LCMS Disaster Response are underway. If you believe God is calling you to financially support the church's response to the flooding, while maintaining a prudent reserve for unforeseen needs and future disaster, please prayerfully consider a contribution to:

LCMS Disaster Response—Strategic Use

Visit lcms.org/givenow/disaster or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861; St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write “Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206).” This fund allows our Synod to continue its care and support, as the demands warrant, of those still suffering in Texas.

LCMS Disaster Response—Flood Relief

Your gift will only be utilized to help those impacted by floods.

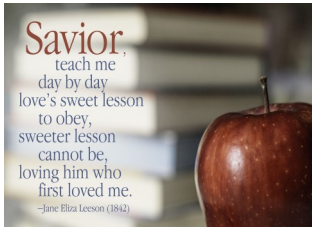
Visit lcms.org/givenow/flood or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write “Disaster Response—Flood Relief (NM8040-26040).”

For answers to questions or help with other donation options, please contact LCMS Mission Advancement by calling [888-930-4438](tel:888-930-4438) or emailing mission.advancement@lcms.org.

Your gifts enable your church to bring the love and mercy of Christ to victims of terrible disasters, like the flooding in central Texas.

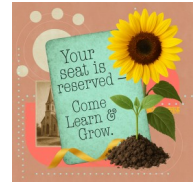
Thank you for your continued, faithful, joyful partnership.

Sub Cruce (Under the Cross),
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



AUGUST 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Preschool: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8 a.m.— 3 p.m. Wed. 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m. Confirmation: Wednesday's 5th & 6th grade: 3:30-5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15-8:00 p.m.			September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1	2
3 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC	4	5 5:30 pm Board of Ed Meeting	6 6:30 Bible Study	7 1:30 p.m. LWML	8	9 5 p.m. Worship w/HC
10 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC	11	12	13 6:30 Bible Study	14 9 a.m. Quilting	15 5 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	16 3:00 p.m. Weiss/Dorhout Wedding 5 p.m. Worship w/HC
17 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC	18 5:00 p.m. Eventide Annual Meeting	19 <i>Messenger</i> Deadline for September issue 	20 6:30 Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Orientation Mtg.	21	22	23 5 p.m. Worship w/HC
24 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 31 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC	25 First Day of Public School 	26 4:00—6:00 p.m. Preschool Open House	27 First Day of p.m. Preschool 6:30 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Newsletter Assemblage Confirmation classes begin	28 First Day of a.m. Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting	29	30 5 p.m. Worship w/HC

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461

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Office: 712-676-2235

Saturday Worship at 5 p.m. w/HC
Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. HC on first & third Sundays
Sunday School and Bible Classes at 10:15 a.m.

+++++

E-mail: immansch@iowatelecom.net
or: markey@iowatelecom.net
Website: www.immanuelschleswig.com
“Like” us on Facebook

Pastor: Merle F. Mahnken
Home Ph.: 712-676-2242 Cell Ph.: 712-269-6364
Assisting Pastor: Kurt Kaiser
Cell Ph.: 712-269-8452

Office: Amanda Bruhn, Jodi Lorenzen and Valerie Teut
Preschool: Leslie Gustafson
Organist: Nancy Bielenberg

Snow Removal and Lawn Care:
Ryan Jepsen; 712-790-1603
Loren and Janice Jepsen



**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT:**
“Together in Christ,
we grow through the
Word and
Sacraments, serving
our Lord and
sharing His saving
grace with all
people.”